

output from the encoding processing unit 1016 is converted into a recording file by an image filing unit 1017. The resultant file is recorded on a recording medium 1018 as a pickup image file.

- 5 As shown in Fig. 12, in the MWB mode, a white balance control value operating unit 1102 directly calculates white balance control values from the white sheet data picked up by an image pickup apparatus (input from an image pickup data input terminal 1101).
- 10 The calculated control values are set in the image pickup apparatus by a white balance control value setting unit 1103 and used as the control values in subsequent image pickup for a white balance adjustment unit 1114.
- 15 By using the set control values, the white balance adjustment unit 1114 adjusts the white balance of the image pickup data input from an image pickup data input terminal 1113 in the subsequent image pickup. A color processing unit 1115 performs final color adjustment
- 20 such as color matrix conversion and color correction processing. An output from the color processing unit 1115 is encoded into a recording format by an encoding processing unit 1116. An output from the encoding processing unit 1116 is converted into a recording file
- 25 by an image filing unit 1117. The resultant file is recorded on a recording medium 1118 as a pickup image file.

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In the prior arts described above, however, white sheet data is written in a specific area called the MWB data area of a recording medium. The recording medium is inserted into an image pickup apparatus to read out the white data in the MWB mode. It is difficult to store a plurality of types of MWB white sheet data on one recording medium, manage them, and read out desired white data. The white data cannot be conveniently used.

The method of directly calculating the white balance control values upon picking up image pickup data and setting them in the image pickup apparatus cannot set an another MWB mode when the white data is prepared once and continuously used, resulting in inconvenience. The white data cannot be conveniently used either.

When white sheet data picked up by a given image pickup apparatus is used as white data for another image pickup apparatus in the above system, accurate white balance adjustment cannot be performed due to the influence of variations in spectral characteristics of the image pickup elements. The white sheet data cannot be conveniently used either.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention has been made in consideration of the conventional problems described

above, and has its object to provide an image pickup
apparatus in which white sheet data used for color
correction of a picked-up image can be conveniently
used, a signal processing method for the image pickup
5 apparatus, and a recording medium having a module for
executing the signal processing of the signal
processing method.

10 In order to achieve at least one of the above
objects, according to an aspect of the present
invention, there is provided an image pickup apparatus
comprising: a memory for storing as white data first
image data obtained from an image pickup element; and a
control unit for converting second image data from the
image pickup element into a file and storing the first
15 image data stored the memory into an area different
from that of the second image data in the image data
file.

The above and other objects, features, and
advantages of the present invention will be apparent
20 from the following detailed description in conjunction
with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing the main part of
25 an image pickup apparatus according to the first
embodiment;

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing the main part of

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